1	2	3	4
Gauge Conversion			
1. Rupsa-Bangripusi	00.50	End of IX Plan	The work would be taken up after obtaining the clearance from CCEA.
Doublings			
1. Gajpatinagaran-Vijayanagras	5.90	Dec.'97	Work in progress.
2. Rajatgarh-Nergundi	5.16	Dec.'97	Work in progress.
3. Raghunathpur-Rahama patch doubling	8.00	Dec.'99	Land acquisition in progress. Tenders for work invited.
Electrification			
1. Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar	10.00 and Rs. 30 crs. under BOLT	March, 2000	Electrification work of Kharagpur-Bhubaneshwar section has been approved with private funding. The work has not been physically taken in hand so far because of very high prices quoted by the bidders in the Tender under BOLT scheme. Planning Commission was approached to allow execution of the work under conventional system with Budgetary support. Planning Commission have now desired that approval of Expanded Board be obtained, for executing the work under Railway funding. Accordingly, the proposal is being submitted before the Expanded Board.

(d) to (f). There is no proposal to electrify Raipur-Waltair section, at present.

[Translation]

Branch Post Office in U.P.

381. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of such villages in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Khurja, which fulfil the stipulated conditions for opening Branch Post Offices and the Post Offices have still not been opened there;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the branches of post offices are likely to be opened there?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 2894 villages in Uttar Pradesh fulfil the part of norms opening of post office relating to population and distance only. The financial norm for opening post offices is examined depending upon the availability of targets and resources. Extra departmental Branch Post Offices have been sanctioned in the current financial year in 32 villages fulfilling all the norms relating to distance, population and income. No village in Khurja fulfils the stipulated conditions of opening of Post Office.

(b) and (c). Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual Plan Schemes subjects to fulfilment of Departmental norms and availability of resources.

[English]

Policy on Satellite

382. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any policy on satellite communication has been formulated;

(b) if so, the salient features and details of such a policy; and

(c) if not, the time by which such policy is likely to be formulated?